

What is claimed is:
Claims

- Sub R 17
1. An apparatus for depositing loose sheet material, in particular papers of value, bank notes, etc., having a transport apparatus (2) for transporting the sheet material (1) and a stacking unit (3) for depositing the bank notes (1) in a deposit device as well as a strapping unit (7), characterized in that the deposit device is suitable for optionally depositing loose and/or strapped sheet material (1).
 2. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the deposit apparatus contains a movable plate (4) which is disposed above a deposit bin (6) in a first operating mode and positioned outside the area of the deposit bin (6) in a second operating mode.
 3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the strapping unit (7) is disposed in swiveling fashion in a door of the apparatus.
 4. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the deposit device is formed as a tandem unit with two deposit bins (6) each having a stacking unit (3) associated therewith.
 5. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the deposit device contains a sensor (11) for determining the height of the already deposited stack of sheets.
 6. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the deposit device or deposit bin (6) contains a vertically displaceable bottom (5) which is displaceable in dependence on the sensor evaluation and the selected operating mode.
 7. An apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the displaceable bottom (5) is lowered in steps in the operating mode for strapped deposit.
 8. An apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the displaceable bottom (5) is lowerable continuously or in steps in the operating mode for loose stacking.
 9. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the deposit bin (6) for stacking the sheet material is formed as a removal aid.
 10. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the deposit bin (6) for stacking the sheet material is formed as a safety bin.

11. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that a movable clamping apparatus is disposed above the movable plate (4), being lowerable onto a stack of sheet material to supply the stack to the strapping unit (7).
12. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that a gripper is provided for transporting the sheet material into the strapping unit.
13. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the strapping unit (7) has a printer for printing the strap with data relating to the sheet material.
14. A method for depositing loose sheet material, in particular papers of value, bank notes, etc., wherein sheet material is supplied by means of a transport unit to a stacking unit which deposits the sheet material in a deposit unit, characterized in that the deposit is effected optionally in loose or strapped form in a deposit bin.
15. A method according to claim 14, characterized in that
 - for strapped deposit a movable plate is positioned above the deposit bin, the sheet material being deposited on said plate until a predetermined number of sheets or predetermined stack height has been reached,
 - the deposited sheet material is held on the movable plate and guided into a strapping unit with a clamping apparatus or transported into the strapping unit by means of a gripper,
 - the movable plate is withdrawn and the stack of sheets stripped above the deposit bin.
16. A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the movable plate is positioned outside the area of the deposit bin for loose deposit of sheet material in the deposit bin.
17. A method according to any of claims 14 to 16, characterized in that a sensor is used to evaluate what height the deposited sheet material occupies within the deposit bin and in accordance with the evaluation a displaceable bottom of the deposit bin is lowered so far that there is enough room for depositing a further packet or a predetermined quantity of loose sheet material.